

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 00912 130417Z
ACTION EA-06

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R 130310Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8117
INFO CINCPAC HONOLU HI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 0912

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
JAKARTA FOR ADMIRAL WEISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH
SUBJ: THAI REACTION TO CINCPAC VISIT

SUMMARY. SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS DURING ADMIRAL WEISNER'S VISIT FROM 10-12 JANUARY TO GIVE HIM A WARM WELCOME AND TO AFFIRM THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S FERVENT DESIRE FOR CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE THAI GOVERNMENT WENT ALL OUT TO GIVE ADMIRAL WEISNER AND HIS PARTY A WARM WELCOME. THE FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE A LUNCH FOR THE ADMIRAL TO WHICH HE INVITED VARIOUS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN BIGWIGS INCLUDING GENERAL KRIANGSAK. THE DEFENSE MINISTER,
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 00912 130417Z

ADMIRAL SA-NGAD, FOLLOWED WITH A DINNER TO WHICH CAME ALL THE OFFICERS OF ANY CONSEQUENCE AT SUPREME COMMAND AND THE COMMANDERS AND VARIOUS SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE THAI ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE. A MORE RESTRICTED GROUP WAS INVITED FOR GOLF AND LUNCH ON THE 11TH AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER AND SUPREME COMMANDER, AS WELL AS OTHER

OFFICERS, CAME TO THE AMBASSADOR'S DINNER FOR THE ADMIRAL. THIS WAS A VERY UNUSUAL TURNOUT OF THAI BRASS AND WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO CONVEY THE IMPORTANCE THE RTG ATTACHED TO THE VISIT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR CLOSE SECURITY TIES WITH THE U.S.

2. THIS DESIRE FOR A CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED IN TOASTS AND COMMENTS. BOTH AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND AT THE EMBASSY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER PRESSED HOME THE THEME THAT THAILAND CONFRONTED INSUREGENCIES AT HOME AND TRUCULENT ENEMIES ON ITS BORDERS, AND THAT WHILE THAILAND INTENDED TO DO WHAT IT COULD ON ITS OWN, IT WAS COUNTING ON THE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES. THE ADMIRAL AND THE AMBASSADOR HANDLED THIS THEME GINGERLY AND WHILE IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE RTG DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPECT LARGE-SCALE GRANT AID, THE UNSTATED BUT CLEARLY IMPLIED QUESTION WAS WHAT THE U.S. WOULD DO IF THAILAND WERE SERIOUSLY IMPRILED.

3. COMMENT: THE THANIN GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY POSTULATES THAT THAI/U.S. RELATIONS WERE BITTER AND STRAINED UNTIL THE COUP OF OCTOBER 6 BROUGHT RIGHT-THINKING LEADERS TO POWER WHO HAVE NOW RE-ESTABLISHED THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. THERE WERE OVERTONES OF THIS MYTH AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE CINCPAC VISIT AND THE RTG WAS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO SHOW ITS PLEASURE AT RECEIVING AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN VISITOR. FAR MORE IMPORTANT
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 00912 130417Z

IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, IS THE OFTEN REPORTED APPREHENSION OF THE THAI LEADERS OVER THE PROBLEMS THEY CONFRONT AND THEIR DEEP-SEATED SENSE OF NEED FOR FRIENDSHIP, AND PARTICULARLY AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, AS THEY ENTER WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE A PERIOD OF SERIOUS DANGER TO THEIR COUNTRY.
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